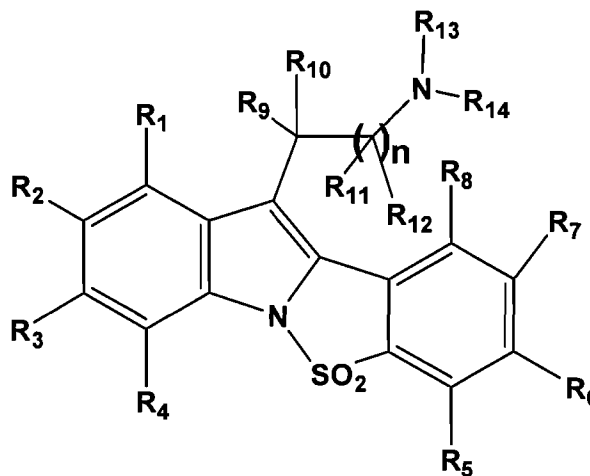


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims presented in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A compound of the formula (I),



(I)

and its tautomeric forms, its stereoisomers, and its pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates,

wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇, R₈, R₉, R₁₀, R₁₁ and R₁₂ may be the same or different and each independently represent hydrogen, halogen, perhaloalkyl, hydroxy, amino, nitro, cyano, formyl, amidino, guanidino, substituted or unsubstituted groups such as linear or branched (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl, (C₂-C₁₂)alkenyl, (C₂-C₁₂)alkynyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkenyl, bicycloalkyl, bicycloalkenyl, (C₁-C₁₂)alkoxy, cyclo(C₃-C₇)alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, heterocyclylalkyloxy, acyl, acyloxy, acylamino, monoalkylamino, dialkylamino, arylamino, diarylamino, aralkylamino, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, heterocyclylalkoxycarbonyl, heteroaryloxycarbonyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, monoalkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, aralkoxyalkyl, alkylthio, thioalkyl, alkoxycarbonylamino,

aryloxycarbonylamino, aralkyloxycarbonylamino, aminocarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonylamino, dialkylaminocarbonylamino, alkylamidino, alkylguanidino, dialkylguanidino, hydrazino, hydroxylamino; or the adjacent groups like R₁ and R₂ or R₂ and R₃ or R₃ and R₄ or R₅ and R₆ or R₆ and R₇ or R₇ and R₈ together with carbon atoms to which they are attached may form a 5, 6, or 7 membered ring, which may further optionally contain one or more double bonds and/or one or more heteroatoms such as the group "Oxygen", "Nitrogen", "Sulfur" or "Selenium" and combinations of double bond and heteroatoms; or R₉ and R₁₀ or R₁₁ and R₁₂ together represent double bond attached to "Oxygen" or "Sulfur"; or R₉ and R₁₀ or R₁₁ and R₁₂ together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached may form a 3, 4, 5, or 6 membered ring, which may further optionally contain one or more double bonds, and/or one or more heteroatoms such as the group "Oxygen", "Nitrogen", "Sulfur" or "Selenium" ~~and also includes combination of one or more double bonds with "heteroatoms",~~ as above defined;

R₁₃ and R₁₄ may be the same or different and each independently represents hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted groups such as linear or branched (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl, (C₂-C₁₂)alkenyl, (C₂-C₁₂)alkynyl, (C₂-C₁₂)alkanoyl (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkenyl, bicycloalkyl, bicycloalkenyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or heterocyclalkyl; or R₁₃ and R₁₄ along with the nitrogen atom, may form a 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7-membered heterocyclic ring, wherein the ring may be further substituted, and it may have either one, two or three double bonds or "additional heteroatoms", as defined above; and

"n" is an integer ranging from 1 to 8, ~~preferably 1 to 4, and may represent either a linear or branched carbon chain.~~

2. (Previously presented) A compound according to Claim 1, which is selected from the group consisting of:

6-(2-N,N-Dimethylaminoethyl)benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

4-Bromo-6-(2-N,N-dimethylaminoethyl)benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

4-Chloro-6-(2-N,N-dimethylaminoethyl)-benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(2-N,N-Dimethylaminoethyl)-4-fluorobenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(2-N,N-Dimethylaminoethyl)-4-methylbenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(2-N,N-Dimethylaminoethyl)-4-methylbenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide
hydrochloride salt;

6-(2-N,N-Dimethylaminoethyl)-4-methylbenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide maleate
salt;

6-(2-N,N-Dimethylaminoethyl)-4-methylbenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide D,L-malic
acid salt;

6-(2-N,N-Dimethylaminoethyl)-4-methylbenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide oxalate
salt;

6-(2-N,N-Dimethylaminoethyl)-4-methylbenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide citrate salt;

6-(2-N,N-Dimethylaminoethyl)-4-methoxybenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(2-N,N-Dimethylaminoethyl)-8-methoxybenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

4-Bromo-6-(2-N,N-dimethylaminoethyl)-8-methoxybenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-
dioxide;

4-Chloro-6-(2-N,N-dimethylaminoethyl)-8-methoxybenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-
dioxide;

6-(2-N,N-Dimethylaminoethyl)-4-fluoro-8-methoxybenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(2-N,N-Dimethylaminoethyl)-4-methyl-8-methoxybenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-
dioxide;

6-(2-N,N-Dimethylaminoethyl)-4,8-dimethoxybenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(2-N,N-Dimethylaminoethyl)-2-ethylbenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

2-Chloro-6-(2-N,N-dimethylaminoethyl)benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

2,4-Dichloro-6-(2-N,N-dimethylaminoethyl)-benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

2,3-Dichloro-6-(2-N,N-dimethylaminoethyl)-benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

5-Chloro-6-(2-N,N-dimethylaminoethyl)-2-methylbenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

2,4,5-Trichloro-6-(2-N,N-dimethylaminoethyl)-benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(2-N,N-Dimethylaminoethyl)-2,4-difluorobenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(2-N,N-dimethylaminoethyl)-4-fluoro-8-methylbenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

2,4-Difluoro-6-(2-N,N-dimethylaminoethyl)-8-methylbenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(2-N,N-Dimethylaminoethyl)-2-methoxybenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(2-N,N-Dimethylaminoethyl)-2,8-dimethoxybenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(2-N,N-Dimethylaminoethyl)-8-methylbenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(3-N,N-Dimethylamino-1-hydroxyprop-1-yl)benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

4-Bromo-6-(3-N,N-Dimethylamino-1-hydroxyprop-1-yl)benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(3-N,N-Dimethylamino-1-hydroxyprop-1-yl)-8-methoxybenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(3-N,N-Dimethylamino-1-hydroxyprop-1-yl)-8-methylbenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

4-Bromo-6-(3-N,N-dimethylamino-1-hydroxyprop-1-yl)-8-methoxybenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-[2-(4-Methylpiperazin-1-yl)ethyl]benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-[2-Morpholin-4-ylethyl]benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(2-Pyrrolidin-1-ylethyl)benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(2-Piperidin-1-yl)ethyl]benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

4-Bromo-6-[2-morpholin-4-ylethyl]benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

4-Bromo-6-(2-pyrrolidin-1-ylethyl)benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

4-Bromo-6-[2-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)ethyl]benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(3-(Piperidin-1-yl)-1-hydroxyprop-1-yl)benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(3-(Piperidin-1-yl)-1-hydroxyprop-1-yl)-8-methoxybenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

4-Bromo-6-(3-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-hydroxyprop-1-yl)benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

4-Bromo-6-(3-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-hydroxyprop-1-yl)-8-methoxybenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(3-(Pyrrolidin-1-yl)-1-hydroxyprop-1-yl)benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(3-(Pyrrolidin-1-yl)-1-hydroxyprop-1-yl)-8-methoxybenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(2-(N,N-Diethylamino)-2-methylethyl)benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(2-(N,N-Dimethylamino-1-hydroxy-1-yl)benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

4-Bromo-6-(2-(N,N-Dimethylamino-1-hydroxy-1-yl)benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(2-(N,N-Dimethylaminoethyl)-2,4-difluoro-8-Methoxybenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

6-(2-(N,N-Dimethylamino-2-methylethyl)benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;

4-Chloro-6-(2-(N,N-Dimethylaminoethyl)-8-methylbenzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]indol-S,S-dioxide;
and

8-(2-(N,N-Dimethylaminoethyl)benzo[d]isothiazolo[3,2-a]benzo(g)indol-S,S-dioxide,

or its stereoisomers, its N-oxides, and its pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates.

3. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising either of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent/s, excipient/s or ~~solvates~~ solvents along with a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1, its tautomeric forms, its stereoisomers, its geometric forms, its N-oxides, and its pharmaceutically acceptable salts, or solvates.

4. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 3, in the form of a tablet, capsule, powder, lozenges, suppositories, syrup, solution, suspension or injectable, administered in, as a single dose or multiple dose units.

5. (Withdrawn) Use of compound of formula (I), as defined in Claim 1 or a pharmaceutical composition as defined in Claim 3 for preparing medicaments.

6. (Withdrawn) Use of compound of formula (I), as defined in Claim 1 or a pharmaceutical composition as defined in Claim 3 for the treatment where a modulation of 5-HT activity is desired.

7. (Withdrawn) Use of a compound as claimed in Claim 1 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prevention of clinical conditions for which a selective action on 5-HT receptors is indicated.
8. (Withdrawn) Use of a compound as claimed in Claim 1 for the treatment and/or prevention of clinical conditions such as anxiety, depression, convulsive disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorders, migraine headache, cognitive memory disorders, ADHD (Attention Deficient Disorder/ Hyperactivity Syndrome), personality disorders, psychosis, paraphrenia, psychotic depression, mania, schizophrenia, schizophreniform disorders, withdrawal from drug abuse, panic attacks, sleep disorders and also disorders associated with spinal trauma and /or head injury.
9. (Withdrawn) Use of a compound as claimed in Claim 1 for the treatment of mild cognitive impairment and other neurodegenerative disorders like Alzheimer's disease, Parkinsonism and Huntington's chorea.
10. (Withdrawn) Use of a compound as claimed in Claim 1 for the treatment of certain GI (Gastrointestinal) disorders such as IBS (Irritable bowel syndrome) or chemotherapy induced emesis.
11. (Withdrawn) Use of a compound as claimed in Claim 1 to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with the excess weight.
12. (Withdrawn) Use of a radiolabelled compound as claimed in Claim 1, as a diagnostic tool for modulating 5-HT receptor function.
13. (Withdrawn) Use of a compound as claimed in Claim 1 in combination with a 5-HT re-uptake inhibitor, and / or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of clinical conditions such as anxiety, convulsive disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorders, migraine headache, cognitive memory disorders, ADHD (Attention Deficient Disorder/ Hyperactivity Syndrome), personality disorders, psychosis, paraphrenia, psychotic depression, mania, schizophrenia, schizophreniform disorders, withdrawal from drug abuse, panic attacks, sleep disorders and also disorders associated with spinal trauma and /or head injury which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof, an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in Claim 1.

16. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of mild cognitive impairment and other neurodegenerative disorders like Alzheimer's disease, Parkinsonism and Huntington's chorea which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof, an effective amount of a compound of general formula (I) as claimed in Claim 1.

17. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of certain GI (Gastrointestinal) disorders such as IBS (Irritable bowel syndrome) or chemotherapy induced emesis using a compound of general formula (I) as claimed in Claim 1.

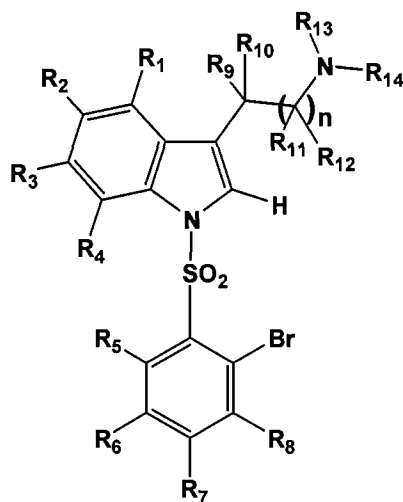
18. (Withdrawn) A method to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with the excess weight using a compound of formula (I) as claimed in Claim 1.

19. (Withdrawn) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I), wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , R_8 , R_9 , R_{10} , R_{11} and R_{12} may be same or different and each independently represent hydrogen, halogen, perhaloalkyl, hydroxy, amino, nitro, cyano, formyl, amidino, guanidino, substituted or unsubstituted groups such as linear or branched (C_1-C_{12}) alkyl, (C_2-C_{12}) alkenyl, $(C_2-$

C₁₂)alkynyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkenyl, bicycloalkyl, bicycloalkenyl, (C₁-C₁₂)alkoxy, cyclo(C₃-C₇)alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, heterocyclylalkyloxy, acyl, acyloxy, acylamino, monoalkylamino, dialkylamino, arylamino, diarylamino, aralkylamino, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, heterocyclylalkoxycarbonyl, heteroaryloxycarbonyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, monoalkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, aralkoxyalkyl, alkylthio, thioalkyl, alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxycarbonylamino, aralkyloxycarbonylamino, aminocarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonylamino, dialkylaminocarbonylamino, alkylamidino, alkylguanidino, dialkylguanidino, hydrazino, hydroxylamino; or the adjacent groups like R₁ and R₂ or R₂ and R₃ or R₃ and R₄ or R₅ and R₆ or R₆ and R₇ or R₇ and R₈ together with carbon atoms to which they are attached may form a 5, 6, or 7 membered ring, which may further optionally contain one or more double bonds and/or one or more heteroatoms such as the group "Oxygen", "Nitrogen", "Sulfur" or "Selenium" and combinations of double bond and heteroatoms; or R₉ and R₁₀ or R₁₁ and R₁₂ together represent double bond attached to "Oxygen" or "Sulfur"; or R₉ and R₁₀ or R₁₁ and R₁₂ together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached may form a 3, 4, 5, or 6 membered ring, which may further optionally contain one or more double bonds, and/or one or more heteroatoms such as the group "Oxygen", "Nitrogen", "Sulfur" or "Selenium" and also includes combination of one or more double bonds with "heteroatoms", as above defined;

R₁₃ and R₁₄ may be same or different and each independently represents hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted groups such as linear or branched (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl, (C₂-C₁₂)alkenyl, (C₂-C₁₂)alkynyl, (C₂-C₁₂)alkanoyl (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkenyl, bicycloalkyl, bicycloalkenyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or heterocyclylalkyl; or R₁₃ and R₁₄ along with the nitrogen atom, may form a 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7-membered heterocyclic ring, wherein the ring may be further substituted, and it may have either one, two or three double bonds or "additional heteroatoms", as defined above; and

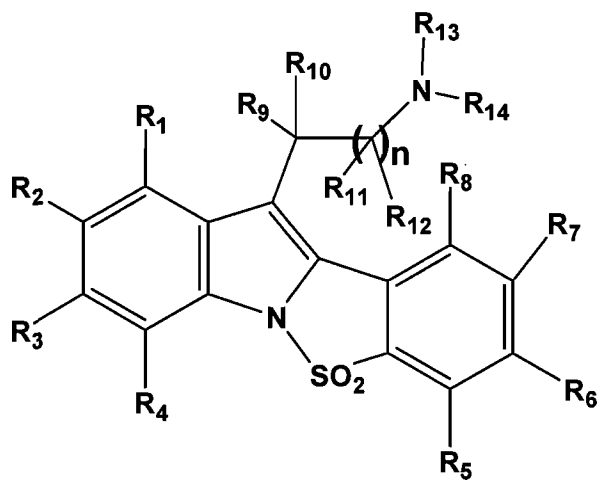
"n" is an integer ranging from 1 to 8, preferably 1 to 4, and may represent either a linear or branched carbon chain; which comprises of cyclizing, a compound of formula (II) given below,



(II)

wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , R_8 , R_9 , R_{10} , R_{11} , R_{12} , R_{13} , R_{14} and “n”, wherein all the symbols are as defined above, using a Pd(0) or Pd (II) derivative as a catalyst.

20. (Withdrawn) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I),



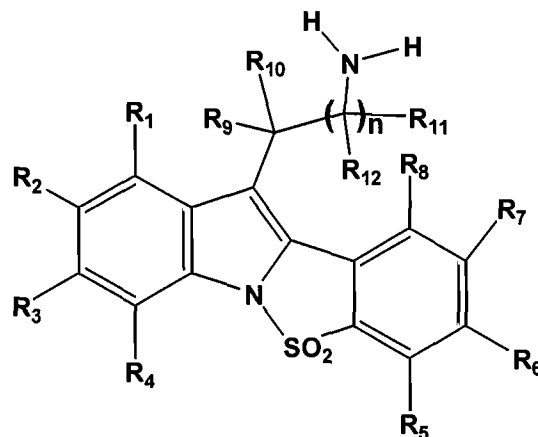
(I)

wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , R_8 , R_9 , R_{10} , R_{11} and R_{12} may be same or different and each independently represent hydrogen, halogen, perhaloalkyl, hydroxy, amino, nitro, cyano, formyl, amidino, guanidino, substituted or unsubstituted groups such as linear or branched (C_1-C_{12}) alkyl, (C_2-C_{12}) alkenyl, $(C_2-$

C₁₂)alkynyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkenyl, bicycloalkyl, bicycloalkenyl, (C₁-C₁₂)alkoxy, cyclo(C₃-C₇)alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, heterocyclylalkyloxy, acyl, acyloxy, acylamino, monoalkylamino, dialkylamino, arylamino, diarylamino, aralkylamino, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, heterocyclylalkoxycarbonyl, heteroaryloxycarbonyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, monoalkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, aralkoxyalkyl, alkylthio, thioalkyl, alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxycarbonylamino, aralkyloxy carbonylamino, aminocarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonylamino, dialkylaminocarbonylamino, alkylamidino, alkylguanidino, dialkylguanidino, hydrazino, hydroxylamino; or the adjacent groups like R₁ and R₂ or R₂ and R₃ or R₃ and R₄ or R₅ and R₆ or R₆ and R₇ or R₇ and R₈ together with carbon atoms to which they are attached may form a 5, 6, or 7 membered ring, which may further optionally contain one or more double bonds and/or one or more heteroatoms such as the group "Oxygen", "Nitrogen", "Sulfur" or "Selenium" and combinations of double bond and heteroatoms; or R₉ and R₁₀ or R₁₁ and R₁₂ together represent double bond attached to "Oxygen" or "Sulfur"; or R₉ and R₁₀ or R₁₁ and R₁₂ together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached may form a 3, 4, 5, or 6 membered ring, which may further optionally contain one or more double bonds, and/or one or more heteroatoms such as the group "Oxygen", "Nitrogen", "Sulfur" or "Selenium" and also includes combination of one or more double bonds with "heteroatoms", as above defined;

R₁₃ and R₁₄ may be same or different and each independently represents hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted groups such as linear or branched (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl, (C₂-C₁₂)alkenyl, (C₂-C₁₂)alkynyl, (C₂-C₁₂)alkanoyl (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkenyl, bicycloalkyl, bicycloalkenyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or heterocyclylalkyl; or R₁₃ and R₁₄ along with the nitrogen atom, may form a 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7-membered heterocyclic ring, wherein the ring may be further substituted, and it may have either one, two or three double bonds or "additional heteroatoms", as defined above; and

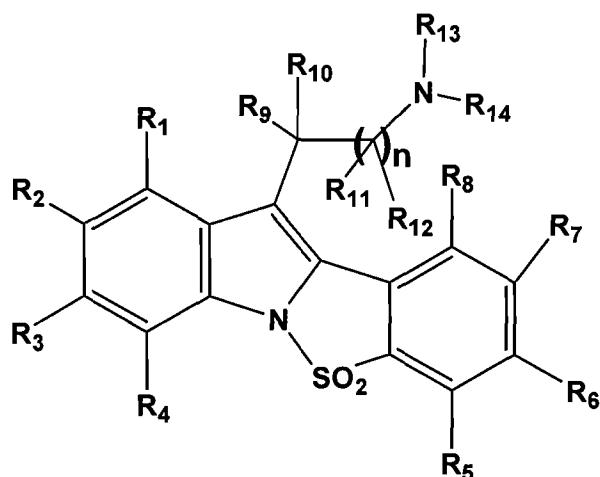
"n" is an integer ranging from 1 to 8, preferably 1 to 4, and may represent either a linear or branched carbon chain; which comprises of reacting a compound (III) given below,



(III)

wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , R_8 , R_9 , R_{10} , R_{11} , R_{12} and “n” are as defined above, with a suitable alkylating agent such as $R_{13}X$ or $R_{14}X$ or $XR_{13}R_{14}X$ in successive steps or in one step, wherein X is good leaving group such as halogen and hydroxyl.

21. (Withdrawn) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I),

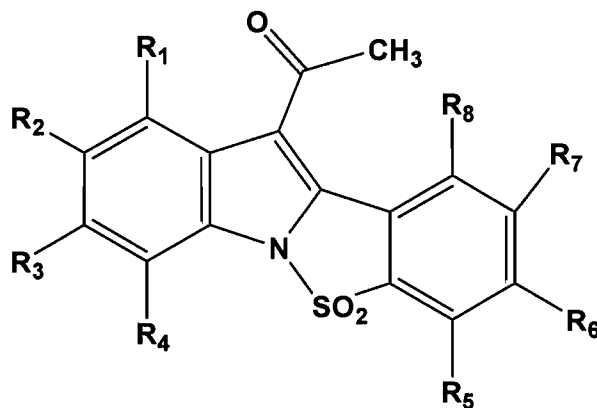


wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , R_8 , R_9 , R_{10} , R_{11} and R_{12} may be same or different and each independently represent hydrogen, halogen, perhaloalkyl, hydroxy, amino, nitro, cyano, formyl, amidino, guanidino, substituted or unsubstituted groups such as linear or branched (C_1-C_{12}) alkyl, (C_2-C_{12}) alkenyl, (C_2-C_{12}) alkynyl, (C_3-C_7) cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_7) cycloalkenyl, bicycloalkyl, bicycloalkenyl, (C_1-C_{12}) alkoxy, cyclo (C_3-C_7) alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaralkyl,

heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, heterocyclylalkyloxy, acyl, acyloxy, acylamino, monoalkylamino, dialkylamino, arylamino, diarylamino, aralkylamino, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxy carbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, heterocyclylalkoxycarbonyl, heteroaryloxy carbonyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, monoalkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, aralkoxyalkyl, alkylthio, thioalkyl, alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxy carbonylamino, aralkyloxy carbonylamino, aminocarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonylamino, dialkylaminocarbonylamino, alkylamidino, alkylguanidino, dialkylguanidino, hydrazino, hydroxylamino; or the adjacent groups like R₁ and R₂ or R₂ and R₃ or R₃ and R₄ or R₅ and R₆ or R₆ and R₇ or R₇ and R₈ together with carbon atoms to which they are attached may form a 5, 6, or 7 membered ring, which may further optionally contain one or more double bonds and/or one or more heteroatoms such as the group "Oxygen", "Nitrogen", "Sulfur" or "Selenium" and combinations of double bond and heteroatoms; or R₉ and R₁₀ or R₁₁ and R₁₂ together represent double bond attached to "Oxygen" or "Sulfur"; or R₉ and R₁₀ or R₁₁ and R₁₂ together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached may form a 3, 4, 5, or 6 membered ring, which may further optionally contain one or more double bonds, and/or one or more heteroatoms such as the group "Oxygen", "Nitrogen", "Sulfur" or "Selenium" and also includes combination of one or more double bonds with "heteroatoms", as above defined;

R₁₃ and R₁₄ may be same or different and each independently represents hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted groups such as linear or branched (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl, (C₂-C₁₂)alkenyl, (C₂-C₁₂)alkynyl, (C₂-C₁₂)alkanoyl (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkenyl, bicycloalkyl, bicycloalkenyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or heterocyclylalkyl; or R₁₃ and R₁₄ along with the nitrogen atom, may form a 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7-membered heterocyclic ring, wherein the ring may be further substituted, and it may have either one, two or three double bonds or "additional heteroatoms", as defined above; and

"n" is an integer ranging from 1 to 8, preferably 1 to 4, and may represent either a linear or branched carbon chain; which comprises of reacting a compound of (IV) given below,



(IV)

wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇ and R₈ are as defined above, with formaldehyde and a compound of formula (V) given below,



(V)

wherein R₁₃ and R₁₄ are as defined above.

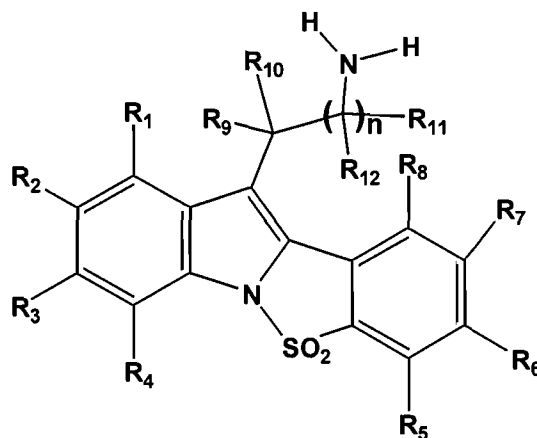
22. (Withdrawn) A process for the preparation of compound of formula (I), which comprises of either chemically or catalytically reducing compounds containing =C(O) group/s in the side chain, to the corresponding –C(OH,H) or –C(H,H) compound.

23. (Withdrawn) A process according to Claim 19 to Claim 22, comprising of carrying out one or more of the following optional steps: i) removing any protecting group; ii) resolving the racemic mixture into pure enantiomers by the known methods and iii) preparing a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a compound of formula (I) and/or iv preparing a pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) Novel intermediates of formula (III) are represented as given below,



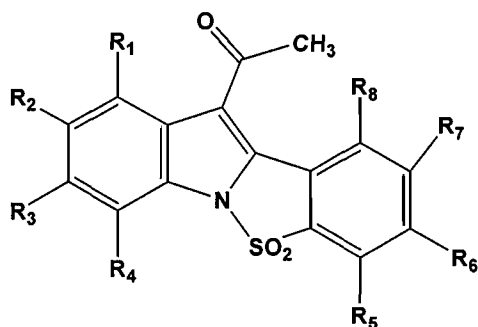
(III)

wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇, R₈, R₉, R₁₀, R₁₁ and R₁₂ may be the same or different and each independently represent hydrogen, halogen, perhaloalkyl, hydroxy, amino, nitro, cyano, formyl, amidino, guanidino, substituted or unsubstituted groups such as linear or branched (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl, (C₂-C₁₂)alkenyl, (C₂-C₁₂)alkynyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkenyl, bicycloalkyl, bicycloalkenyl, (C₁-C₁₂)alkoxy, cyclo(C₃-C₇)alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclalkyl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, heterocyclalkyloxy, acyl, acyloxy, acylamino, monoalkylamino, dialkylamino, arylamino, diarylamino, aralkylamino, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxy carbonyl, aralkoxy carbonyl, heterocyclalkoxy carbonyl, heteroaryloxy carbonyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, monoalkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, aralkoxyalkyl, alkylthio, thioalkyl, alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxy carbonylamino, aralkoxy carbonylamino, aminocarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonylamino, dialkylaminocarbonylamino, alkylamidino, alkylguanidino, dialkylguanidino, hydrazino, hydroxylamino; or the adjacent groups like R₁ and R₂ or R₂ and R₃ or R₃ and R₄ or R₅ and R₆ or R₆ and R₇ or R₇ and R₈ together with carbon atoms to which they are attached may form a 5, 6, or 7 membered ring, which may further optionally contain one or more double bonds and/or one or more heteroatoms such as the group "Oxygen", "Nitrogen", "Sulfur" or "Selenium" and combinations of double bond and heteroatoms; or R₉ and R₁₀ or R₁₁ and R₁₂ together represent double bond attached to "Oxygen" or "Sulfur"; or R₉ and R₁₀ or R₁₁ and R₁₂ together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached may form a 3, 4, 5, or 6 membered ring, which may further optionally contain one or more double bonds, and/or one or more heteroatoms such as the group "Oxygen", "Nitrogen", "Sulfur" or "Selenium" ~~and also includes combination of one or more double bonds with "heteroatoms"~~, as above defined[.];

"n" is an integer ranging from 1 to 8. ~~It is preferred that n be 1 to 4. The carbon chains which "n" represents may be either linear or branched.~~

27. (Withdrawn) A process provided for the preparation of novel intermediate of the general formula (III) which comprises of cyclizing a suitable compounds of formula (II).

28. (Withdrawn) Novel intermediates defined of formula (IV),

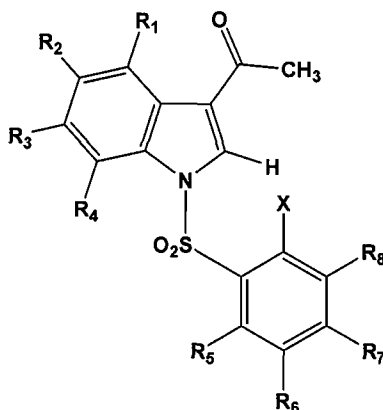


(IV)

wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇ and R₈ are as may be same or different and each independently represent hydrogen, halogen, perhaloalkyl, hydroxy, amino, nitro, cyano, formyl, amidino, guanidino, substituted or unsubstituted groups such as linear or branched (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl, (C₂-C₁₂)alkenyl, (C₂-C₁₂)alkynyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkenyl, bicycloalkyl, bicycloalkenyl, (C₁-C₁₂)alkoxy, cyclo(C₃-C₇)alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, heterocyclylalkyloxy, acyl, acyloxy, acylamino, monoalkylamino, dialkylamino, arylamino, diarylamino, aralkylamino, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxy carbonyl, aralkoxy carbonyl, heterocyclylalkoxycarbonyl, heteroaryloxy carbonyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, monoalkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, aralkoxyalkyl, alkylthio, thioalkyl, alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxy carbonylamino, aralkyloxy carbonylamino, aminocarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonylamino,

dialkylaminocarbonylamino, alkylamidino, alkylguanidino, dialkylguanidino, hydrazino, hydroxylamino; or the adjacent groups like R₁ and R₂ or R₂ and R₃ or R₃ and R₄ or R₅ and R₆ or R₆ and R₇ or R₇ and R₈ together with carbon atoms to which they are attached may form a 5, 6, or 7 membered ring, which may further optionally contain one or more double bonds and/or one or more heteroatoms such as the group "Oxygen", "Nitrogen", "Sulfur" or "Selenium" and combinations of double bond and heteroatoms; and R₉ and R₁₀ here are represented as double bond attached to "Oxygen".

29. (Withdrawn) A process provided for the preparation of novel intermediate of the formula (IV) which comprises of cyclizing compounds of formula (VIII)



wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇ and R₈ are as defined above; using a Pd(0) or Pd (II) derivative as a catalyst.

30. (New) The compound of claim 1, wherein n is 1 to 4.

31. (New) The novel intermediates of claim 26, wherein n is 1 to 4.